

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Reintroduction of Bay Checkerspot Butterfly to San Bruno Mountain

FONSI 18-11-MP

Recommended by:



Douglas Kleinsmith
Natural Resource Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 4/9/18

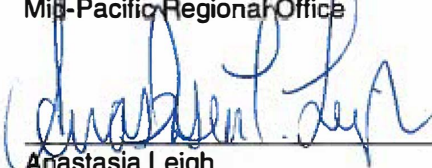
Concurred by:



Daniel Strait
Program Manager, Central Valley
Project Conservation Program
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 4/9/18

Approved by:



Anastasia Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
Mid-Pacific Region

Date: 4/11/2018



1 Background

Reclamation will provide \$202,384 to the Creekside Center for Earth Observation (Creekside) to reintroduce the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*) (BCB) to San Bruno Mountain (SBM) in San Mateo County near the city of South San Francisco, California. The Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) will provide funding for the Proposed Action. The CVPCP helps mitigate the past impacts of Reclamation's Central Valley Project on threatened and endangered species, and helps minimize future impacts to the species.

The environmental assessment (EA) was available for public review on March 23, 2018. The review period ended on April 9, 2018. No comments were received on the EA.

2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 No Action

Reclamation will not provide \$202,384 to Creekside to reintroduce the BCB to SBM. Creekside will have to obtain funding from other public or private sources to conduct the reintroduction effort. If alternative funding cannot be secured, the Proposed Action could not move forward.

2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation will provide \$202,384 to Creekside to reintroduce the BCB to SBM. Creekside will collect up to 5,000 BCB larvae from source populations at Coyote Ridge in south San Jose/northern Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County. This collection site contains 7,000 acres of contiguous serpentine soil habitats supporting BCB. To prevent over-collection, no more than 5% of the BCB source population will be collected. Larvae will be transported to release sites in vented containers in coolers, and will be distributed by hand at two sites at San Bruno Mountain. Larval releases will be supplemented by collecting and releasing up to 60 adult BCBs (40 female, 20 male) from Coyote Ridge to SBM.

BCB releases will continue for four years to greater ensure the possibility of encountering good weather (mostly cool springs) during the reintroductions, which will improve the likelihood of success. Additional sites will be considered for release should rapid assessment surveys, to be funded as part of the Proposed Action, identify additional sites with large stands of plantain, the preferred host plant for BCB.

Monitoring activities of the Proposed Action will consist of conducting BCB postdiapause larval estimates, walking transects to count adult BCBs, and sampling at vegetation phenology plots at San Bruno Mountain.

3 Findings

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the area of the Proposed Action, and evaluates the impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. This EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the proposed action are not significant:

1. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
3. The proposed action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
4. The proposed action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not adversely affect any districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is the type of activity that

does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

8. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).

9. The proposed action will not violate Federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).

10. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).

11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).

12. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).